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U.S Patent Application  
Atty. Ref: 07574.0102.PCUS00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:  
PONN, Helmut *et al.*  
  
Serial No.: 09/683,233  
  
Confirmation No.: 8299  
  
Filed: 12/04/2001  
  
For: VEHICLE LOCK DEVICE

Group Art Unit: 3677  
  
Examiner: LUGO, Carlos  
  
Atty. Dkt. No.: 07574.0102.PCUS00

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**RESPONSE**

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**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:**

The following is provided in response to the Advisory Action mailed December 14, 2004, together with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).